

DATE OF DEPOSIT

~~MAR 11 2023~~

~~PA Public Utility Commission
Secretary's Bureau~~

Via Email

March 10, 2023

Honorable Darlene Heep
Administrative law Judge
Office of Administrative Law Judge
801 Market Street, Suite 4063
Philadelphia, PA 19107
dheep@pa.gov
sdelvillar@pa.gov

RE: *PA PUC v. Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc.*
PUC Docket No. R-2022-3036634

Richard Adams v. Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc.
PUC Docket No. C-2022-3037266

Enclosure

cc: Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary (Letter and Certificate of Service only)
Certificate of Service

Dear Judge Heep,

Attached please find my Main Brief submitted on my behalf Richard Adams

In the above referenced proceedings.

Richard Adams Statement No. 1 Main Brief of Richard Adams

Sincerely,

S / Richard Adams *Richard Adams*

Richard Adams
221 Taylorsville Road
Yardley, PA 19067
urbroa@hotmail.com

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MAR 27 2023

PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

I. CONCISE STATEMENT

1. My opposition to Aqua R-2022-3036634 / R-2022-3037266 filing being approved.

II. REFERENCE

1. Richard Adams direct testimony.pdf, Richard Adams opening statement recorded.

III. ARGUMENT SUMMARY

This rate change unreasonably discriminates against those not notified, approximately 21,383 customers of its filing, who are being denied the optional ability to provide a usage reading to accurately report waste water consumption. Waste water treatment is a consumption based service and customers must be provided with the ability to submit direct or supplementary usage readings when their waste water consumption does not have a 1:1 relationship with their metered water consumption, and/or if they are subjected to flat rate

waste water billing. Customers that do not burden the waste water system with the same volume of incoming water, but yet are required to pay waste water charges based on incoming water usage, are being defrauded

IV. ARGUMENT

My direct testimony Line 18 that 66 Pa. C.S. A. 1308 requires the waste water utility to notify all customers affected of this proposed change. All customers have a right to know that this rate change request exists and be made aware of how this proposed rate change impacts costs, present property value, and future resale value. My direct testimony, second page, Line 2, asserts that 66 Pa. C.S.A. 1304, 1502, & 1505 do apply.

The proposed rate change creates a preferential class of approximately 832 customers and disenfranchises approximately 21,383 customers by restricting their ability to access the same alternate reporting method as the preferential class which is unreasonably discriminatory.

Electric usage is billed on actual consumption by way of metering. Public water usage is billed on actual consumption by way of metering. Waste water usage is billed, most typically, by equivalent metering of incoming water – with the assumption that the same volume of incoming water is being returned to the waste water system. This method works just fine when there is more or less a 1:1 relationship between incoming water and outgoing waste water, as would likely be typical for most customers, however this method is wholly inaccurate when there is a substantial imbalance between the incoming/outgoing water and has the effect of grossly over billing, and thus defrauding, those customers.

This proposed rate change is unreasonably inequitable for customers with lawn irrigation systems or swimming pools who may have an enormous imbalance between incoming water usage and waste water usage (lawn irrigation & swimming pool filling have no burden on the waste water system). These customers are being denied the ability to install, at their own expense, secondary meters to facilitate the accurate reporting of waste water usage.

This proposed rate change is unreasonably inequitable for customers with private well water who are being billed an arbitrary flat-rate for public waste water service and who are being denied the ability to install, at their own expense, meters to report their actual well water usage for accurate waste water billing.

This proposed rate change is unreasonably burdensome on senior citizens or those on low or fixed incomes that may be subjected to flat-rate waste water billing that is substantially higher than what would otherwise be billed if actual usage were reported.

There is a high barrier to entry for customers to install their own water meters – the cost of the meter and a licensed plumber are not insignificant. In light of this, it would only be a subset of customers that find benefit in incurring the initial expense to yield longer term benefit by then receiving accurate waste water billing. Therefore, the administrative burden on the waste water utility is low but the benefit to customers is high in cases where a substantial imbalance exists.

Denying customer's the ability to utilize one of the above mentioned reporting methods results in customers being forced to pay for waste water services not provided. The waste water utility is the recipient of a windfall of over billings in situations where an imbalance exists between the billed & actual waste water usage, and thus those customers are being defrauded.

V. RELIEF SOUGHT

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PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
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For those who have primary metered public utility water service; allow any past, present, or future waste water customer to install/own a secondary water meter and provide a deduct usage meter reading of water that does not enter the waste water system to facilitate accurate waste water billing.

For those customers who have private well water; allow any past, present, or future waste water customer to install/own a water meter to accurately report well water usage for the purposes of consumption based waste water billing (not arbitrary flat-rate billing).

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
PA PUC v. AQUA PENNSYLVANIA
WATERWATER, INC.: DOCKET NO: R-2022-3036634**

v.:

**RICHARD ADAMS v.:
AQUA PENNSYLVANIA: DOCKET NO: C-2022-3037266
WASTEWATER, INC.:**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true copy of the foregoing document, Richard Adams, Richard Adams Statement No. 1 Main Brief of Richard Adams, upon the persons and in the manner set forth below:

Via Email:

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